

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to the amendment filed January 30, 2008.

Examiner notes: The rejection under 35 USC 102 (e) is formally withdrawn in view of Applicant's "DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132", filed January 30, 2008. The rejections under 35 USC 101 and 112 are formally withdrawn.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Anthony M. Petro on April 21, 2008.

The Claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:
a storage device configured to store a plurality of files; and
a host device comprising a processor, wherein the processor is configured to execute instructions configured to implement a file system, wherein the file system is configured to manage access to said storage device and to store file system content on said storage device, wherein said file system comprises a programming-language-independent interface through which an application is configured to access said file system content, wherein said programming-language-independent interface is further configured to receive a request to access said file system content from said application

without dependence on a programming language in which said application is implemented;

wherein said programming-language independent interface is further configured to:

detect a virtual file identity corresponding to a given file, wherein said virtual file identity includes a given file identity that specifies said given file within said file system and further includes additional information that specifies particular file system content to be accessed with respect to said given file identity;

select at least a portion of said particular file system content dependent on said virtual file identity; and

return said selected file system content.

2. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said file system content comprises file data stored in one or more of said plurality of files.
3. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said file system content comprises metadata stored in a named stream corresponding to a given file.
4. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said metadata is stored in Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim [[5]] 1, wherein said virtual file identity is formed by embedding a command token within [[a]] said given file identity corresponding to said given file.

7. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim [[5]] 1, wherein said virtual file identity is formed by prepending a virtual directory to [[a]] said given file identity corresponding to said given file.
8. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:
- a file system storing file system content on a storage device configured to store a plurality of files, wherein said file system is implemented by a host device; and
 - an application accessing said file system content via a programming-language-independent interface implemented by said file system without dependence on a programming language in which said application is implemented;
- said programming-language independent interface detecting a virtual file identity corresponding to a given file, wherein said virtual file identity includes a given file identity that specifies said given file within said file system and further includes additional information that specifies particular file system content to be accessed with respect to said given file identity;
- said programming-language-independent interface selecting at least a portion of said particular file system content dependent on said virtual file identity;
- and
- said programming-language-independent interface returning said selected file system content.
9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said file system content comprises file data stored in one or more files.
10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said file system content comprises metadata stored in a named stream corresponding to a given file.

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11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said metadata is stored in Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim [[12]] 8, wherein said virtual file identity is formed by embedding a command token within [[a]] said given file identity corresponding to said given file.

14. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim [[12]] 8, wherein said virtual file identity is formed by prepending a virtual directory to [[a]] said given file identity corresponding to said given file.

15. (Currently amended) A ~~tangible~~, computer-accessible storage medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by a processor ~~computer-executable~~ to implement a file system configured to:

store file system content on a storage device configured to store a plurality of files; and

present a programming-language-independent interface to an application, wherein said application accesses said file system content via said programming-language-independent interface without dependence on a programming language in which said application is implemented;

wherein said programming-language independent interface is further configured to:

detect a virtual file identity corresponding to a given file, wherein said virtual file identity includes a given file identity that specifies said given file within said file system and further includes additional

information that specifies particular file system content to be accessed with respect to said given file identity;
select at least a portion of said particular file system content dependent on said virtual file identity; and
return said selected file system content.

16. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said file system content comprises file data stored in one or more files.

17. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said file system content comprises metadata stored in a named stream corresponding to a given file.

18. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said metadata is stored in Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim [[19]] 15, wherein said virtual file identity is formed by embedding a command token within [[a]] said given file identity corresponding to said given file.

21. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim [[19]] 15, wherein said virtual file identity is formed by prepending a virtual directory to [[a]] said given file identity corresponding to said given file.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-18 and 20-21 are allowed over the prior art made of record.

Applicant's particular the limitations directed at the "file system which includes a programming-language-independent interface by which an application is configured to access the file content, and to receive a request to access the file system content without dependence on the programming language in which the application is implemented and where the programming-language-independent interface detects a virtual file identity corresponding to a given file, a given file identity in the file system and includes additional information for a particular file system content to be assessed with respect to the given file identity, select a portion of a particular file system content dependent on the virtual file identity and return the selected file system content" in combination with the other limitations of the claims, was not disclosed by, would not have been obvious over, nor would have been fairly suggested by the prior art of record, in context to the claims and the specification.

The dependent claims, being further limiting to the independent claims, definite and enabled by the Specification are also allowed. The closest prior art fails to anticipate or render Applicant's limitations above obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Other Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications will not be supplied with Office actions.

Examiners advises the Applicant that the cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S. patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site (www.uspto.gov), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources.

For the use of the Office's PAIR system, Applicants may refer to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html> or 1-866-217-9197.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Diane D. Mizrahi whose telephone number is 571-272-4079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christian Chase can be reached on (571) 272-4190. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 305-3900 for After Final communication.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the

Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

/Diane Mizrahi/

Diane.Mizrahi@USPTO.gov
Primary Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

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